

## ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus are disclosed for generating television program recommendations based on a user-specified query. The disclosed television programming recommender automatically constructs a query based on previous searches that have been executed by the user. For example, the television programming recommender can automatically initiate a search in response to a user command, such as a one-button click, using the  
10 top-N search terms for each attribute that have been previously used in a query. One or more default terms may be specified for a given attribute to supercede the corresponding top-N search terms. Each query is evaluated against a set of programs in an electronic programming guide to identify programs of interest to a particular user. Each time a search is initiated by the user, the query is decomposed to identify the attribute-value pairs specified by the user and a counter is incremented. When an automatic search is initiated, the top-N attribute-value pairs are retrieved for each possible attribute and automatically placed in the search bin. The attributes of each program in an  
20 electronic program guide are compared to the attribute-value pairs specified in the automatic query to identify programs satisfying the limitations of the automatic query.

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